

REMARKS

Claims 11, 12, and 14-27 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 26 and 27 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 11, 12, and 14-25 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by St. Goar et al. (US 6,629,534 B1).

Claim 26 has been canceled thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over St. Goar et al. in view of Peredo (US 6,409,759).

Claim 27 has been canceled thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

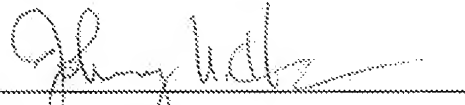
Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 11, 12, and 14-25 with thanks.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the appropriate fee and/or petition is not filed herewith and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account No. 50-3973 referencing Attorney Docket No. HNMDNN00101. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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